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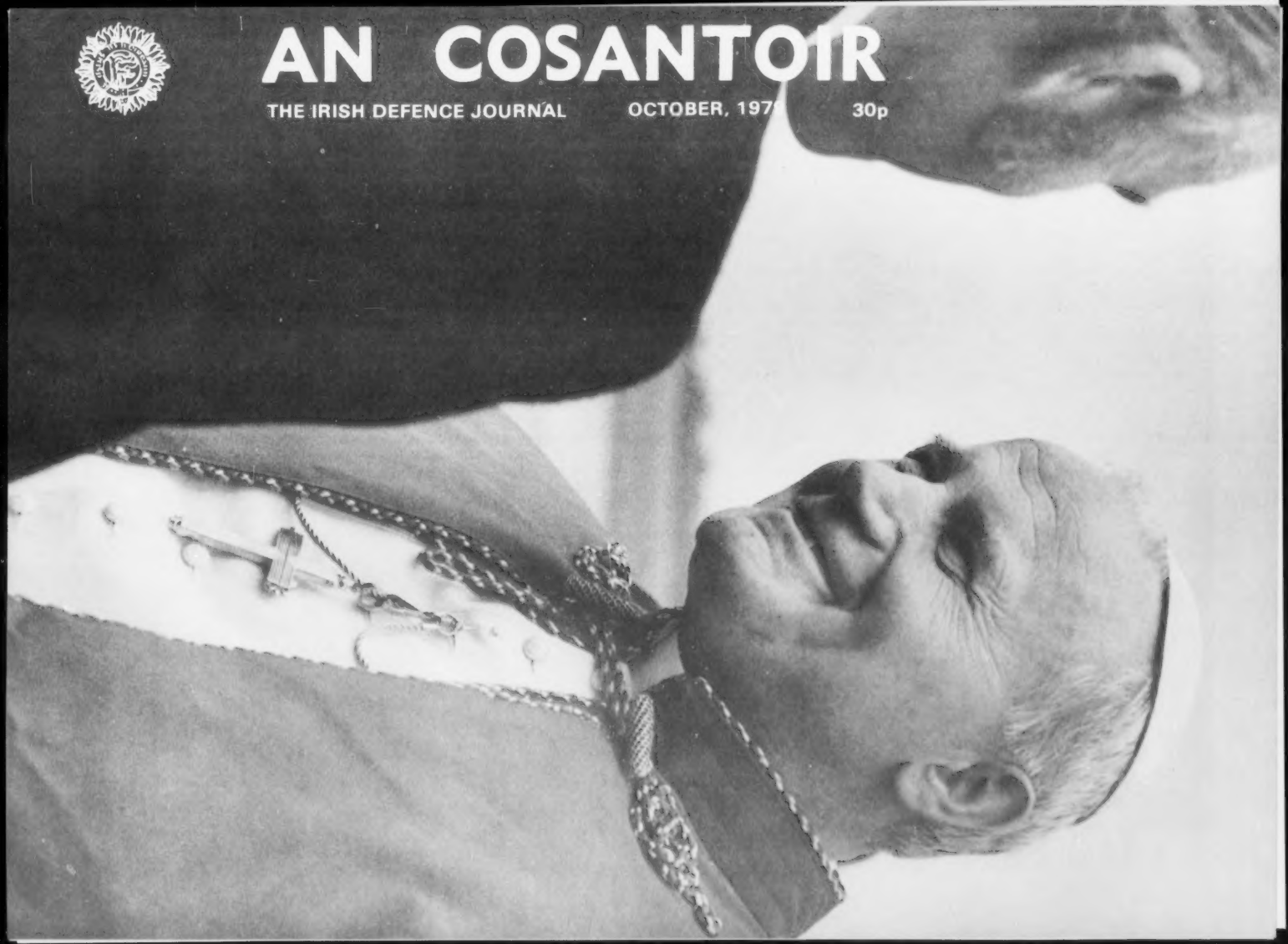
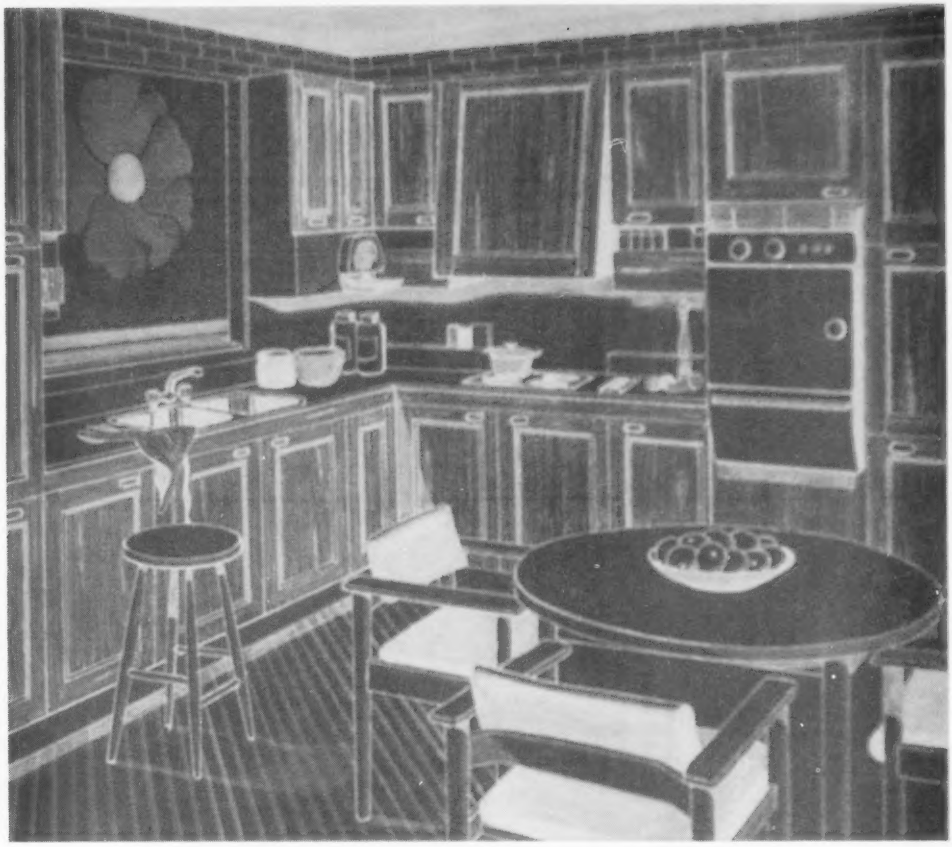
THE IRISH DEFENCE JOURNAL OCTOBER, 197 30p





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editor
Comdt. Con Costello.

editorial
Army Headquarters,
Parkgate,
Dublin 8, Ireland.
(Tel. 771881).

advertising
The Manager,
An Cosantoir,
Army Headquarters,
Parkgate, Dublin.

An Cosantoir is available from: Officers' and NCOs' Messes; Army Canteens; all leading Newsagents; or by direct subscription from An Cosantoir, Army Headquarters, Parkgate, Dublin 8.

Annual Sub (Ireland & U.K.) £3.60
Overseas surface, £5.50
Overseas, Air Mail, £6.50.

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Pope John Paul II being greeted by the Commander in Chief, President Hillery, at Dublin Airport. (Photo: Comdt. P. Walshe)

Photographs of Papal Visit
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The L. E. "Aoife," taken during her trials — September, 1979

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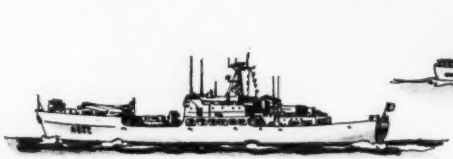
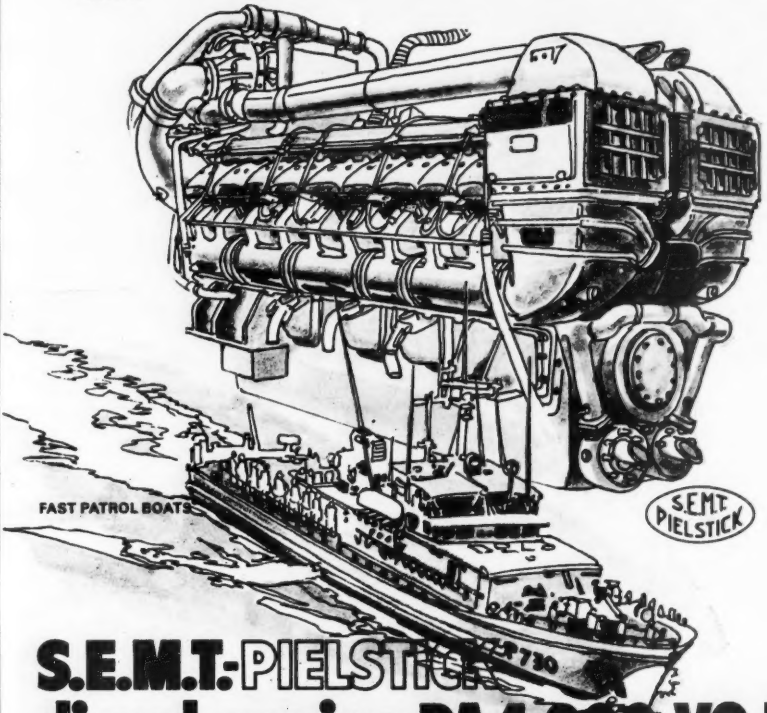


FRIGATES

CORVETTES



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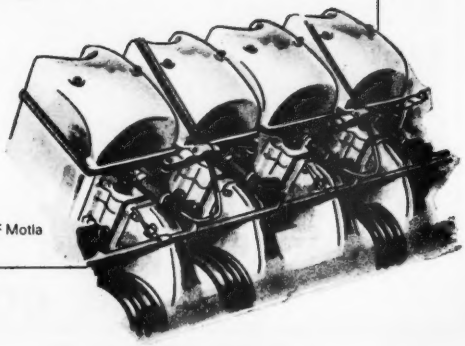

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The L.E. Aoife on trials. (Photo: Bateman)

A NEW PATROL VESSEL FOR THE NAVAL SERVICE

Lt. Cdr. E. McNamara N.S.

THE Department of Defence recently accepted delivery of a Patrol Vessel for the Naval Service. The new ship is the third vessel of the 'Deirdre Class' to be built at Verolme Cork Dockyard. A fourth vessel similar in all respects, is also under construction at the Cork Dockyard. The new ship will be named *L.E. AOIFE.*

L.E. AOIFE has been designed to carry out extended off-shore patrols in the North Eastern Atlantic environment, She has new features over previous NS vessels, which enable her to remain at sea for prolonged periods in the 200 mile economic zone off our coast. She has also been equipped with ultra modern satellite navigation equipment, so that accurate navigational data may be obtained at all times when the vessel is far off shore.

Ships Dimensions	
Length Overall	65.2m
Estreme Draft	*4.36m*
Beam	*10.53m*
Displacement	*1020 tonnes*
Speed	*18.3 kts*

Propulsion

Main Engines: The vessel is propelled by two SEMT PIESTICK Type 6 PA6L-280 Marine Diesel Engines. Each engine developing 2400 BHP.

Gear Box: Lohmann and Stolterfoht twin input single output plain reduction gearing coupled to main engines by Pneumaflex highly flexible clutch couplings.

Propellor: The propellor is a four bladed skew back CP propellor by KAMEWA. It is designed to reduce noise and vibration.

Bow Thruster: The ship has been fitted with a KAMEWA bow thruster, which increases manoeuvrability at slow speeds.

Alternators: There are three PAXMAN/ MARKON diesel driven generators fitted. Each generator has a capacity of 172 KW at 380 Volts, 50 Hz, in three phases. There is also an emergency communications generator fitted.

Armament: One 40mm BOFORS Naval Mounting and two 20mm OERLIKON Guns are fitted.

Navigational Equipment

A Decca MK 21 Navigator is fitted.

The vessel is supplied with two radar sets. One RM (Relative Motion) set and one TM (True Motion) set. The true motion radar is fitted with anti collision aids.

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HAGENUK

Satellite Navigation System Sunrad NX. The ship is equipped with the 4800 N satellite navigation system. This system gives the navigator a fix by satellite every 90 mins. approximately. The fix is displayed on a video unit and a copy is automatically produced for each satellite fix. The video display updates the ships DR position every minute between fixes. This system has global capability.

Automatic Plotting Table

L.E. AOIFE is fitted with an automatic plotting table. From data obtained from the ships gyro compass and speed log the vessel's track is automatically projected on to the relevant chart by a beam of light. From the ships sensors i.e. Radar and Sonar, up to six contacts can be plotted at the one time. The table has a 12 KV EPROM computer memory bank which allows it to recall past own ship and target data.

EQ Echo Sounder SIMRAD

This is a highly sensitive echo sounder which embodies a depth recorder and digital readout of depths under the keel.

Aqua Probe Electro Magnetic Log

A Probe fitted to the underwater hull measures the ship's speed and distance travelled.

SONAR

The ship is fitted with SIMRAD SU SONAR with CD display. This is a long range SONAR with streamlined dome for SONAR search at ships speed up to 18 Kts. The dome is lowered and raised hydraulically. The CD display is a computerised picture display of the underwater scene and is in effect an underwater map.

Communications

L.E. AOIFE is fitted with HAGENUK Radio equipment. The ship has the capacity to operate on all radio bands. The equipment is automatically tuned and represents the best state of the radio communications Art. As well as operational communications, the ship is fitted with three colour television sets. The television signal is received by omni directional aerial fitted on the mast. There is also a Video Tape Recorder on board. This unit can record or play back, through all the ships television sets.

In the design and building of this vessel, every effort has been made to maximise crew comfort, compatible with a vessel required to spend long periods at sea. All in all, this vessel, should prove more than capable of carrying out the tasks of a modern offshore patrol vessel which will be required to operate off our western seaboard, renowned as one of the most inclement sea areas in this part of the Globe.

NUNC DIMITTIS . . .

ON 23 August 1979 the United Nations flag was lowered for the last time at the Headquarters of the second United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF 2) in the Suez Canal Company compound in Ismailia. The first UNEF lasted from November 1956 to June 1967 and was withdrawn amid recriminations, and under fire. It was said that there would never be another UN peace-keeping force. But there was no alternative after the October War of 1973: two forces were set up - UNEF 2 and UNDOF.

At 2130 GMT on 25 October 1973, UNFICYP HQ was told that, subject to national governments' approval, the Austrian, Finnish and Swedish contingents were to provide detachments to go to Egypt for duty along the cease-fire line. National Government clearance was complete at 1100 hrs. next day, and the first aircraft left Akrotiri at 1832 GMT. Within days an Irish battalion also left Cyprus for Egypt. The force built up to 11 battalions and later scaled down to four in 1976. (Two battalions took up duty in the separate United Nations Disengagement Observation Force in the Golan Heights).

During nearly six years in the Sinai Desert UNEF 2 saw many changes. With assistance from UNTSO it supervised two Eghpt-Israel Agreements and helped to introduce and operate many peace-keeping innovations. The troops operated in a harsh environment, building their own base-camps and outposts in open desert.

And now its work is done. A good UN force should operate in such a way that "peacemaking", defined in the "Peace-keepers Handbook" as "the effort to settle a conflict through mediation, negotiation or other forms of peaceful settlement" is facilitated. Clearly UNEF 2 did this. It had certain advantages. It dealt with responsible governments. The area of operations was largely uninhabited - there was no one to arm for proxy warfare. Israel knew that her troops had to leave the Sinai eventually. Egypt had seen the disastrous effects of ordering out UNEF 1. Most important of all was the realization that neither side could finally defeat the other. But suspicion and mistrust took time to give way. UNEF 2 provided that time. And now it leaves the Sinai, its task done.

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CADET SCHOOL 50th ANNIVERSARY

Front Row: Rev. Fr. D. Harrington, C.F.; Lt. B. Geraghty; Capt. G. Freyne; Capt. J. Goulding; Comdt. M. Bohan; Col. T. J. Ryan, College Commandant; 2/Lt. S. Ashmore; Lt. Col. C. Cox, Cadet School Commandant; Rev. Fr. P. McCabe, H.C.F.; Capt. B. O'Brien; Capt. P. Rossiter; Capt. A. O'Sullivan. **2nd Row:** Mr. L. Heffernan, Mr. McGirr, Mrs. McGirr, Comdt. J. O'Brien, Mrs. M. Fitzsimons, Mrs. J. O'Brien, Comdt. H. Lalor, Lt. Col. R. F. Dalton, Mrs. R. F. Dalton, Mrs. P. Hally, Mrs. H. Lalor, Mrs. M. Neylon, Mrs. J. Cogan, Mrs. B. Heffernan, Mrs. P. Walsh, Miss S. Fitzsimons, Col. J. K. Cogan, Mrs. T. Ryan, Maj. Gen. P. Curran, Mrs. C. Cox, Maj. Gen. P. J. Hally, Mrs. C. Lalor, Capt. C. Lalor. **3rd Row:** 2/Lts. G. Webb, D. Benn, R. O'Mahony, B. McKenna, B. P. Healy, A. Grey, D. Doherty, P. O'Halloran, J. O'Neill, D. Hickey, W. Timmins, G. O'Driscoll, P. Farrelly, P. O'Riordan, J. Curran. **4th Row:** 2/Lts. W. O'Connell, P. Duffy, J. Killoch, D. Sparrow, K. McGinley, K. Barry, P. Prendergast, M. Lynch, A. O Cleirigh, N. Shannon. **Back Row:** 2/Lts. P. Flynn, D. Bergin, C. Furey, C. Twomey, J. Kirby, M. Boyle, P. Diskin, R. McHugh, T. F. Healy, A. Burke.

(Taken by Comdt. P. Walshe outside Cadets Mess on 24th September 1979 — Jubilee Commissioning Day)

Address by Major-General Hally on 24th September, 1979 at the Cadets' Mess on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Commissioning of the 1st Cadets 2nd September, 1929

SPEAKING for the 1928/29 class, we feel honoured to be invited here to-day - the day set aside for the commissioning of the 54th Cadet Class. We would sincerely like to thank the Minister for Defence, The Commandant, The Military College, The Commandant, The Cadet School and the Cadets senior and junior. It is an occasion that will live in our memories for ever. On a personal note as I entered here to-day I could not help thinking of that severe Winter's morning 51 years 8 months ago, when I first reported to this Cadet School, a young schoolboy, wondering what military life would be like.

I know now, and I have never regretted my choice of career. Ours is an honourable profession and hence the terms "officer" and "gentleman" are synonymous. The Army is a good life, if you make it your life. Be jealous at all times of the Army's good name and high standards, because they are your name and reputation. What could be more important to the Defence Forces than the training of its future officers?

Someone once said that old men are fond of giving good advice to console themselves for being no longer in a position to give bad example. I am not particularly fond of giving good advice, because I am always conscious of what Oscar Wilde wrote:

"As soon as people are old enough to know better,
They don't know anything at all".

We would like to offer the senior class our congratulations on successfully completing your training course, and on passing the numerous tests which qualified you to be officers of the Defence Forces. To-day you will take part in a ceremony of commissioning, which I always think is one of the most impressive ceremonies carried out in the Army.

I would like to quote from an address given to a Cadet Class before commissioning in 1960 by the late Head Chaplain to the Forces The Very Rev. Fr. Cyril Crean.

He said:-

"One thing is certain; the effectiveness of an officers' influence on his men depends not on what he says, but on what he is. You will command the loyalty and respect of your men just in the same degree as you show the qualities you expect from them in your own conduct".

I must mention the members of the 1st Class who are not with us to-day. They were good companions, likeable and honourable men. They gave excellent service to their country, and we are very pleased and proud to have their relatives with us to-day.

To conclude before I ask Lt. Col. Cox - Cadet Commandant, to accept a presentation from the 1st Cadet Class for the Cadets' Mess, I would like to quote from **Longfellows Hyperion** *for us all::*

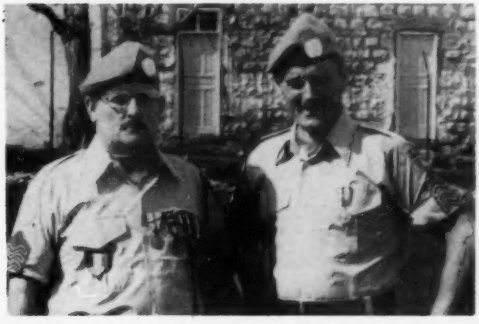
"Look not mournfully into the Past.
It comes not back again – wisely
improve the present. It is there,
Go forth to meet the shadowy Future,
Without fear, and with a manly heart.

Members of the 1st Cadet Class from Left to Right: Maj. Gen. P. J. Hally, Maj. Gen. P. Curran, Col. J. K. Cogan, Lt. Col. R. F. Dalton, Comdt. H. Lalor, Comdt. J. O'Brien. Exchanging salutes with 2/Lt. D. Sparrow. Capt. J. Goulding, Company Commander is in the background.

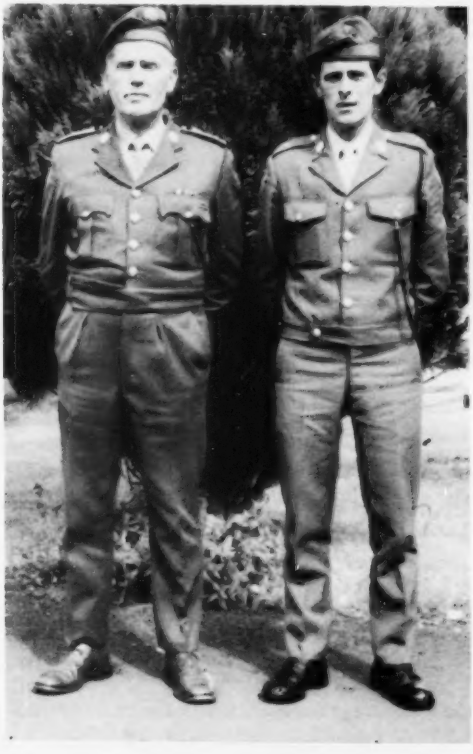
(Photo: Comdt. P. Walshe)

3 Fd. Coy. MPC Camp

3 field company MPC Limerick photographed at Summer Camp. No. 1 platoon Tralee (above) were winners of the Inter Platoon Shield. Recent promotions in the Unit were (below) Comdt. T. Fox, Limerick and Lt. T. Scannell, Tralee.



C/S M. Whelan depot MPC Curragh Comd. and CQMS P. Butler, 12 Inf. Bn. Fermoy, members of HQ Company, UNIFIL after the Medal Parade at Naqoura.



R.T.E. REQUESTS

Since September, 7th R.T.E. Radio 2 have been providing a fifteen minute request programme for members of the Defence Forces. The programme is on the air every Friday at 16.15 hrs. on the Ronan Collins Show. Request envelopes or cards should be marked "Defence Forces" on the top left corner and should be addressed to:

The Ronan Collin's Show,
R.T.E. Radio 2,
Dublin 4.

Already the programme is providing a welcome facility for our troops overseas to have requests played for friends and relatives back home.

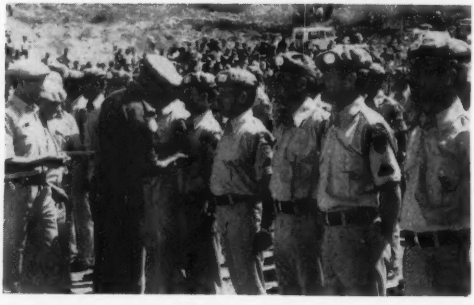
45 Inf. Bn. UNIFIL

45 INF. BN. UNIFIL. From left: Mr. Anderson - Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. O Tuathail - Irish Ambassador to Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Maj-Gen. Erskine - Force Commander UNIFIL. Col. H. McDwyer - Irish Contingent Force Commander. Lt. Col. D. Byrne - Senior Operations Officer.

Lt. Col. T. Quinlan (left) OC 45 Irish Bn. and Comdt. D. Regan, Adjt. 45 Irish Bn.

The Bn. Pipe Band.

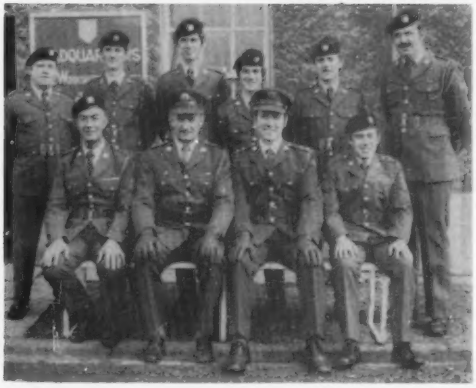
The Guard of Honour presenting arms to the Force Commander.



The Force Commander presenting U.N. Medals.

Fr. Alan Ward, CF. Celebrating Mass.

Eastern Command



No. 5 AnCO Pl. This Pl. has completed three years training as motor mechanic apprentices, consisting of one year "off the job" training in the AnCO/CIE Training Centre in Inchicore and two subsequent years of full time training in Supply & Transport, Base Workshops, Clancy Barracks.

The AnCO scheme has been in operation since 1972, in order to supplement the number of motor mechanic apprentices being trained in the Army Apprentice School in Naas.

Front Row L. to R: CQMS F. Loughins; Cft. S. O hAdhmaill (Officer Commanding, BWS, S & T); Lt. V. Fitzgerald (Training Officer); Sgt. J. Mann (Pl. Sgt.) *Back Row:* Cpl. N. Skelly (Trg. NCO); Ptes. G. Hutchinson (3rd Bn.); D. Ansley (2 Garr AOC); P. Fogarty (S. Comd. Hqrs); T. Fleming (5 Inf. Bn.) and Cpl. V. Collins (Trg. NCO). (Photo: C/S M. Murphy)

At a recent meeting in Collins Bks. Dublin at which the Col. Dan Fitzgerald Branch O.N.E. was inaugurated. Pictured are: (L to R) T. O'Keefe, Secretary Area Council O.N.E.; T. Carroll, Branch Treasurer; P. Maguire, Chairman Dublin Council O.N.E.; P. Byrne, Branch Chairman; T. Stack, Branch Secretary; CQMS P. McCabe, Liaison Officer, Collins Bks., Dublin. (Photo: Cpl. J. O'Brien)

Headquarter Company 5 Infantry Battalion, winners of the Collins Barracks Cup 1979, who defeated 2 Fd. Coy. S & T. Front Row - L. to R: Ptes. P. Smart; P. Kelly; Cpl. M. Mahedy; Sgt. P. Clancy (Team Captain); Ptes. J. Coady; V. Burke and P. O'Brien. Back Row: C/S W. Gilbert; Ptes. M. Reilly; J. Kearns; D. Kenny; D. Smallhorne; S. Carrick; Sgt. J. Doolan and Cpl. P. O'Hora, Team Trainer. (Photo: Cpl. J. O'Brien)

Group pictured at a joint Army, Garda, Aer Rianta, State Services and Aer Lingus security exercise conducted at Dublin Airport. L. to R: Insp. J. Connell; Supt. C. Cronin; CPO Barney Reynolds; Sgt. Jim Gantley; Chief Supt. E. Crowley; Mr. J. McDonald; Capt. M. McGannon; Capt. J. Brady; Col. J. Quigley; Mr. Peter Mahon; D/Sergt. P. Ennis; D/Sergt. M. Niland and Capt. D. O'Leary.

Southern Command

3Fd. Med. Coy. at Lahinch

Visiting the camp (from left): Comdt. Daly, O.C. 1st Field Medical Corps., Cork; Sgt. Christy Barron, Training Sgt., 1st Field Medical Corps.; CQMS Pat McNamara, Camp Sgt. Major; Col. Larry O'Toole, Director, Army Medical Corps; Col. Gibson, Command Medical Officer and Comdt. McCann, O/C 3rd Field Medical Corps.

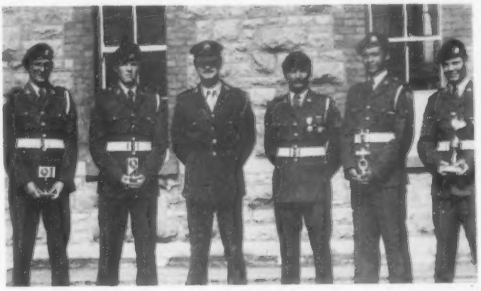
38½ yrs. in 4 Bn.

Sgt. Major Wrenne can boast of what must surely be a record in any unit. Since he enlisted in Jan. 1941 all his service has been with the 4 Inf. Bn. in Collins Bks., Cork.

"Warry", still remembers the day he enlisted for 12/2d per week. He was promoted to Cpl. in 1946, Sgt. in 1953 and has served with the 37 Bn. in the Congo in 1962. In 1963 he was promoted to Coy. Sgt. and served in Cyprus with the 41 Bn. in 1964/65. He is the proud holder of 2 Southern Command championships in the sniper competition. Promotion to Sgt. Major arrived in Jan. 1979.

A native of Tournafully, Co. Limerick, Sgt. Major Wrenne is married with 10 children. His son, Cpl. John Wrenne, serves with the 27 Bn. in Cavan. Asked to compare the army now to that of yesteryear "Warry" says that it is a lot easier now. Before he cycled 15 miles from his home in Crosshaven to Collins Barracks, donned his Battleorder, and then did a route march. Now he prefers to let C.I.E. do the travelling and detail the young lads for the route marches. (Photo: Cpl. D. Magennis)

Col. E. Dineen presents Pte. Byrne J. 31st Rec. Pln. with the prize for "Best Dressed Soldier on Parade" at Clonmel. (Photo: Lt. K. Byrne)



Prize winners in 31st Rec. Pln. Clonmel: Pte. K. O'Sullivan - *Best shot, FN.* Pte. T. Byrne - *Best shot, MAG.* Lt. Kelly, Sgt. McKell, Pte. J. Byrne - *Best Dressed on Parade.* Pte. S. Walsh - *Best Soldier.* (Photo: Lt. K. Byrne)

Sgt. D. Heaslip with his son John and Cpl. D. Walsh, with his son John, all from Tralee, and C/S L. Breathnach and sons Maurice and Liam, Clonmel, keep up the family tradition in 3 Fd. Coy. MPC, Limerick.

Western Command

Presentation from Officers to Sgt. Paddy Barkey. *L. to R:* Comdt. F. Cleary, Col. Donal MacSuibne, Comdt. J. O'Dwyer (Rtd.); Sgt. Paddy Barkey & Lt. Col. Liam Clancy. (Photo: P. Devaney, Athlone)

Miss Valerie West preparing to take blood from Sgt. John Kelly, A/Records. (Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

Overall winner for heaviest catch at Custume Bks. fishing competition was A/Sgt. E. Mullally - 4 COE Coy. seen here receiving his trophy from Comdt. M. Tallon 2 i/c 6 Bn. Also in picture are, Cpls. K. O'Connor; P. Coleman and H. McConnell. (Photo: P. Devaney, Athlone)

Presentation to Sgts. M. O'Reilly and T. O'Brien, 4 Gn. MPC on their retirement from the Army. *L. to R:* Sgts. J. Doran, M. O'Reilly, C/S Callinan, Comdt. J. Quilty O/C 4 Gn. MPC, Sgt. Toby O'Brien, Capt. M. Baynes. (Photo: P. Devaney, Athlone)

Prizewinners at the All Army Pitch & Putt championships held in Athlone - L. to R: Cpl. David Walshe; A/M Brian Maguire; Sgts. John Smyth and Dennis Hutton. (Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

All Army Pitch & Putt team champions - L. to R: Gnr. Mick Roche; Cpl. Martin Charles; A/Sgt. Kevin Plunkett and BQMS Edward Robinson. (Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

Curragh Command

President Hillery being welcomed to Curragh Golf Club by Col. E. Condon, President of Curragh Golfing Society. Also in the picture is Comdt. W. Young, Captain of Curragh Golf Club and ADC to the President.
(Photo: O. McCrossan)

Courtesy visit by members of O.N.E. including President and Vice Presidents of provinces to General Officer Commanding Curragh Command. L. to R: Lt. Col. J. Fagan, EO Curragh; Noel Johnson (Ulster); Paddy Maguire (Leinster); Bde. Gen. D. Hurley; GOC Curragh; Lt. Col. T. Doyle (President O.N.E.); Gerry O'Leary (Connaught); Paddy Murray (Munster); and Col. O'Hanlon, OC 6 Bde. (Photo: Oliver McCrossan)

President J. Nyerere of Tanzania, on a recent visit to Newbridge, seen inspecting a Guard of Honour from the 3rd Battalion. In charge of the Guard of Honour was Capt. F. Burns, who has just returned from 1½ years service in the Middle East. (Photo: Oliver McCrossan)

Members of the 54th Cadet Class, just after receiving their commissions, with 2 of their instructors. Left to Right: Capt. Jim Goulding, Class Captain; 2/Lt. Finbar Healy; 2/Lt. David Sparrow; 2/Lt. John O'Neill; 2/Lt. Desmond Bergin and Capt. Paul Rossiter, Instructor Cadet School. (Photo: Oliver McCrossan)

Western Command

A recent 2•-3• course held at Finner Camp by SP Coy. 28 Bn. *Front Row - L. to R:* Sgt. B. Doherty, Ptes. McDevitt, Lynch, Gavigan, Maguire, Smith. Lt. K. Butler i/c Course, Ptes. Price (best soldier) Brennan, Gamble, Lynch, Doherty and Cpl. R. Calhoun. *Back Row - L. to R:* Ptes. Quirke, Kelly, McNamee, McCartney, Gallagher, Rhatigan. Sgt. T. Sweeney, Ptes. McBride, O'Brien, Walker, McClintock, Hurley, Burke, Walsh. (Photo: Sgt. C. McKeen)

Visit of Pope John Paul II to Ireland

Last minute discussion at Dublin Airport before the arrival of the Pope on September, 29th. Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. C. O'Sullivan with Brig. Gen. M. J. O'Brien O/C Eastern Comd. and Staff Officer Lt. Col. S. Casey and Comdt. P. Redmond.

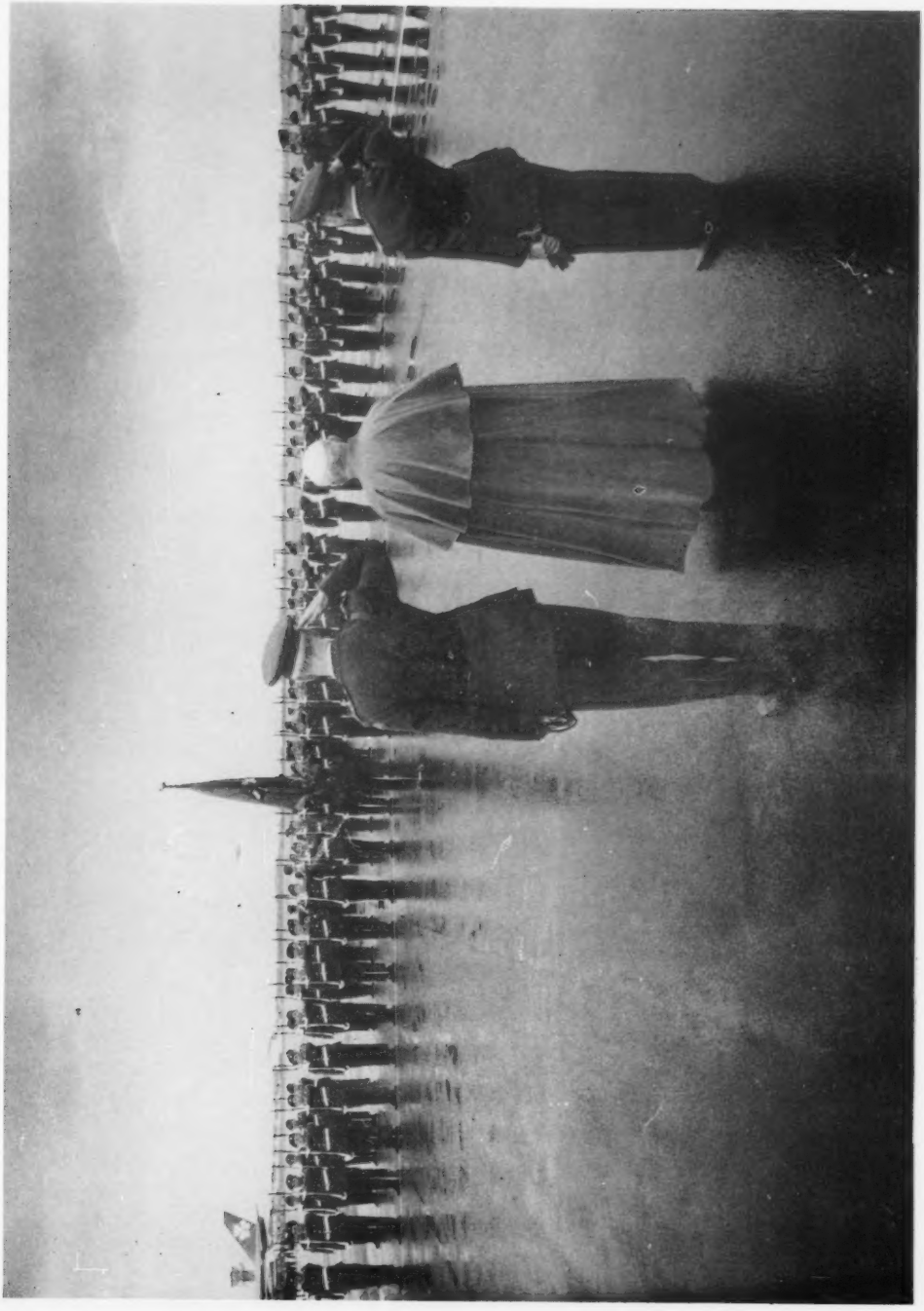
Capt. S. Cloonan, 2 Inf. Bn. leading the Pope to the guard of honour at Dublin Airport, accompanied by Chief of Staff and O/C Eastern Command.

Comdt. D. G. Mellerick with the Band of the Curragh Command at Dublin Airport.

Members of B. Company, 20 Inf. Bn. Drogheda, preparing to line the route at Dame Street on Saturday evening.

Manning a crowd control CP at Knock Capt. P. J. McDunphy with Gnr. A. McAnaney and Sgt. K. Prendergast, 4 Fd. Arty. and two members of the 4 Fd. Sigs.

Air Corps pilots who navigated the Garda Helicopters, with Lt. Col. W. Feuersinger, German Border police, are L. to R: Comdt. J. P. Kelly; Lt. J. Goss; 2/Lt. J. Whyte.



Guard of honour 12th Inf. Bn. saluting the Pope at Shannon

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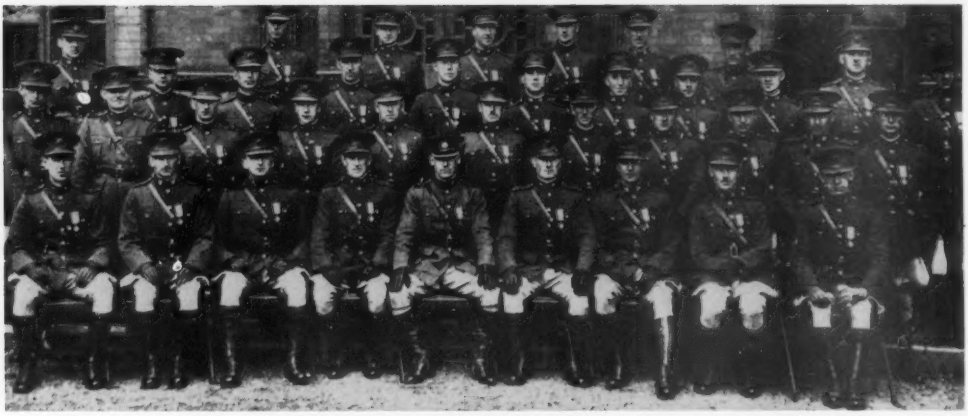
Capt. D. Murphy, 12th Inf. Bn. escorting the Pope with the Chief of Staff and Col. T. Russell, O/C 1 Bde., at Shannon. (Photo: T. J. Clarke)

The Pope acknowledges the salute from Capt. D. Murphy 12 Inf. Bn. The Chief of Staff and O/C 1 Bde., representing O/C Southern Comd., with the Pope and in the background H.E. President and Cardinal O'Fiaich.



31st International Eucharistic Congress - Dublin - 1932
Guard of Honour

Front Row, L. to R.: Capt. H. Cannon, Lt. T. Marsh, Capt. J. Flanagan, Lt. H. Wilson, Col. J. Magoran, Capt. C. Dillon, Capt. M. Lennon, Lt. O. Cusach, Capt. L. Brennan. **2nd Row:** Capt. S. O'Beirne, Capt. D. O'Connell, Lt. J. Murphy, Capt. P. C. Ryan, Capt. B. Whelan, Capt. T. Fyans, Capt. T. Cullen, Capt. N. Harrington, Capt. S. Clancy, Capt. P. McCarron, Capt. P. Kavanagh. **3rd Row:** Capt. S. Neligan, Capt. R. Shaw, Capt. J. McGrath, Capt. J. McDonnell, Capt. J. Swan, Lt. M. Kerrigan, Capt. T. Meenahan, Capt. W. Ivory, Capt. J. Devine, Capt. T. Finn, Lt. J. Walsh. **4th Row:** Capt. J. Davis, Capt. D. W. Ryan, Capt. D. Kelly, Capt. T. B. Gunn, Capt. P. J. McKenna, Capt. M. Leamy.

THE visit of Pope John Paul II to Ireland revived memories of the last great religious occasion in Ireland. The 31st International Eucharistic Congress.

This photograph, taken outside McKee Officer Mess, was located in a souvenier booklet published after the congress held in Dublin in 1932.

It was copied from the booklet which explains its rather poor quality.

Later I located an original in the possession of Lieut. Colonel Niall Harrington (Retd.) who was, himself a member of the guard of honour.

Unfortunately, most of the other officers are dead.

One rather unusual thing about the composition of the guard of honour is the presence of at least one officer of the Army Medical Corps (Lieut. Harry Wilson).

It should be remembered that this photograph was taken over 47 years ago, only ten years after the Army's foundation. With perhaps one or two exceptions, all the officers photographed were under thirty five years of age.

Major General R. Callanan (retd.) and Lieut. Colonel Niall Harrington (retd.) were of great assistance in naming the officers in this historic photograph.

Capt. John Meehan (Retd.)

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	Thursday	9.30 am-4.15 pm
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	Including lunchtime.	
Cork Centre Clinic Times	Tuesdays	12.00 noon-3.00 pm including lunchtime
	Thursdays	5.00-8.00 pm
	Fridays	10.00-12.30 pm

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CURRAGH RACES 1979

FIXTURES

NOVEMBER 3: SATURDAY
J. T. Rogers Memorial Stakes

NOVEMBER 5: MONDAY
Irish Handicap

ATHLETICS

1979 seems to have been the dawning of a new golden age for athletics in the Defence Forces with Army athletics making the big breakthrough at National level in such varied events as Cross Country, marathon, 400m, hammer, 1,500m and 3,000m walk, and the high spots must definitely have been the silver medals gained by our Cross Country teams, the C.I.S.M. Long Cross Championship in Fermoy on St. Patricks Day, the selection of four runners on the Irish Senior panel for the World Cross Country tests in Limerick and the selection of four athletes on the Irish Team for the Triangular International with Wales and Holland in Belfield in August.

The year began on a high note with Brendan Downey, Brian Keeney, Padraig Keane and Paddy Murphy being selected on the Irish panel for Limerick and Downey and Keaney gained their first Irish vests in the International Cross Country races being held in England in preparation for the World Tests, while Murphy and Keane added to their collection of vests by also getting trips.

On the home scene the Eastern Command and dominated the Cross Country Championships - and retained the novice title while snatching the senior title from the Curragh after a very exciting struggle.

In the B.L.E. National Championships Army athletes were also in the limelight with Cpl. Jimmy McGlynn finishing third in the National Intermediate in the Phoenix Park and also leading Donore and Dublin into the gold medal positions in the Club and County tests. Cpl. Herbie McClelland was also a scoring member of the Donore team.

Cpl. Tony Martin, Eastern Command, was a scoring member of the Civil Service team who took the Silver medals in the National Road Relays and in the National Track 3,000m. team race.

With the advent of the track season, Brendan Downey began to emerge as a top class 1,500m. prospect when he finished third behind to Ovett in Tullylease and Coughlan in Cork. In Germany, Sean Egan was lowering the Irish hammer record in almost every meeting. Bernie O'Callaghan was doing well in the track walking races and Gerry Delaney was making a name for himself in the 400m., and along with Egan won selection to the Irish Europa Cup team.

In the all Army track and Field Championships, Downey won the 800-1500 double, Delaney won the 100m. and 200m. Murphy took the 5,000m. for a sixth successive year with McGlynn in second place. O'Callaghan won the 3,000m. walk. The Curragh retained the shield for the best Command with the East in second place, while Sean Carlin from the 24th Bn. retained the General Mulcahy trophy for the 2nd year.

Capt. Bernie O'Callaghan, Directorate of Ordnance, McKee Bks., who represents Ireland internationally. (Photo: C/S Mick Murphy, AHQ)

At the National Championships held in Belfield three weeks later Sean Egan continued his run of disappointing performances and lost his Hammer title to Lawlor. Brendan Downey had an excellent run to finish 3rd in the 1,500 behind Eamonn Coughlan and John Treacy, while Bernie O'Callaghan won his first National title in the 3,000m. after leading the race from start to finish. Gerry Delaney qualified for the final of the 400m. but did not take his place in the final due to a leg injury.

The Leinster Championships were held in Tullamore a week later and Brendan Downey won the 1,500m. Paddy Murphy took the 5,000m. while Bernie O'Callaghan took the 3,000 walk.

When the Irish team was announced for the last international of the season against Wales and Holland at Belfield, four members of the Forces were included - Sean Egan (Hammer), Brendan Downey (1,500m.), Bernie O'Callaghan (3,000m. walk) and Gerry Delaney (4 x 400m. relay) and this number must constitute a record. This meeting marked a change in fortune for Sean Egan when he broke the Irish record with his first throw of the competition and finished that had been a disappointing six weeks for him. Brendan Downey finished third in the 1,500m. and Bernie O'Callaghan fourth in the 3,000m. walk. Gerry Delaney missed out in the relay due to an injury.

While many members of the Forces did well in County Championships, one performance must be singled out for mention and that is the performance of Jimmy McGlynn who won the Dublin Marathon

and the Liffey Valley half Marathon after a year which saw him in and out of hospital with a mysterious liver complaint. This former International in the Marathon will surely surpass anything he has done before if he can get rid of this problem.

One sad feature of this year was the departure from the Army of two runners - Padraig Keane and Brian Keeney and also the imminent departure of one of our best known and enthusiastic officials. I refer, of course, to B.S.M. Paddy Norris of the 2nd Bn. I am sure that all sportsmen in the Army will wish them every success in their undertakings in civilian street.

'Discus'

OLYMPIC HOPE

Comdt. N. Hegarty, OC, ASPC

Pte. John Egan, national record holder, hammer title, has risen to fame through his fine technique and speed. He could be our representative in next years Olympic Games. During his school years John played few games but was keen on swimming. After enlisting in 1974 he won the Curragh Command and All Army 40 metres breast stroke championship. At this time Coy. Sgt. Frank O'Shea (now retired) encouraged him to concentrate on the hammer. Frank had been Army hammer champion and as a Senior coach had few peers, if any in Ireland. They were to prove the ideal combination - the coach competent skilled and decisive - the student eager keen and above all determined.

He competed in the All Army sports in 1974 finishing third with a very modest throw of 97 ft. But sheer hard work had its reward when the following year he threw 160 ft. He improved steadily in 1976 and '77 and completed the latter season with a throw of 199ft. 8ins. International competition was on his doorstep and the future was full of promise. The year 1977 was to have a decisive bearing on his future training as in March of that year he received coaching in Germany. He later rejected an offer of a scholarship to Ohio University.

Winter training at Darmstadt in 1978 was followed by coaching in technique under Eberhard Garde. On 23 July at Belfield he made history by becoming National Champion and record holder with a throw of 215ft. 1in. John Lawlor's National record had stood for eighteen years but John Egan was on the march. He completed the '78 season with a victory in the International Friendship week in Taiwan - a fitting climax to a wonderful season.

The athletic season which is now drawing to a close saw him increase his National record by over 10 ft. At Darmstadt and Frankfurt in early May he had throws of 222 and 224 ft. Unfortunately shortly afterwards he injured his back in training at Darmstadt. For a thrower who is dependent on skill and technique an injury of this nature severely restricts his speed in the circle. Not undaunted by his injury he commenced vigorous training in early July. It was obvious in August that his injury had healed satisfactorily and that a new record was in the offing. At the triangular international in Belfield on 19th August he not only established a new National record of 225ft. 9ins. but had three throws over 225 ft. This was John Egan at his very best demonstrating his skills and technique. He won this international by over 50 feet.

Commentators are frequently mystified by his rapid progress. The answer is twofold. John Egan believes in himself and has the courage, dedication and determination to match his belief. We in the Army can be proud that his training both at home and abroad was of an exceptionally high standard. Undoubtedly the greatest field athlete in our Army's History he will go forward and wear the green singlet for Ireland in the great stadia of the athletic world. He is now less than four feet short of the qualifying distance for the Moscow Olympics. Barring serious injury he will not only qualify but will throw in the region of 238 ft. It is a long time since Lieut. Collins represented Ireland at Amsterdam in 1928. Moscow 1980 may herald the dawn of a new era.

SEA ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over ninety competitors representing all four Commands, the Navy and Air Corps took part in the fourth Annual Defence Forces Sea Angling Championships which were held in Killybegs from the ninth to the twelfth of August inclusive. The event was held in conjunction with the eighteenth three day International Sea Angling Festival and members of the Forces were most successful in the International Competitions.

Shore Angling Results

Best Aggregate

1. Comdt. A. O'Sullivan (E.C.)2.. Pte. T. Hickey (C.T.C.)

Heaviest Fish

1. Comdt. A. O'Sullivan (E.C.)2. Cpl. L. McLysaght (A.C.)

Biggest number of Fish

1. Comdt. A. O'Sullivan 2. Capt. B. O'Callaghan

Best Team

1. Eastern Comd. 4. Southern Comd.
2. Curragh Comd. 5. Naval Service
3. Air Corps. 6. Western Comd.

Boat Angling Results

Best Aggregate

1. CPO J. Jeffares (N.S.) 2. SCPO D. Power (N.S.)

Biggest number of Fish

1. SCPO D. Power (N.S.) 2. CPO J. Jeffares (N.S.)

Heaviest Fish

1. Cpl. L. McLysaght (A.C.) 2. Sgt. M. Gillen (W.C.)

Best Team

1. Naval Service 4. Western Comd.
2. Curragh Comd. 5. Air Corps.
3. Eastern Comd. 6. Southern Comd.

Victorious Naval Service anglers. **(Back row, L to R):** CPO George Jeffares, SPCO Dan Power, L/Fra Paddy O'Sullivan, Ens. Adrean O'Dwyer. **Front:** A/Tel. Seamus Nolan and A/Sig. Paul Nolan.

CPO Jeffares was best overall angler, with SCPO Power runner-up. Ens. O'Dwyer caught the best Turbot (a specimen of 19½ lbs.) The winning boat team consisted of SCPO Power, CPO Jeffares, A/Tel Nolan and A/Sig Nolan, while CPO Jeffares, SCPO Power and L/Fra O'Sullivan took the award for the best team of 3 anglers in the International Competition. (Photo: C/S M. Murphy)

A CONNEMARA INTERLUDE or WHAT FUEL SHORTAGE?

IT was near Oughterard, about eleven in the morning and I was getting into my car after a cup of coffee in a road-house. A most expensive tearing of rubber against tarmacadam made me look up the road just in time to see a car slewing to a halt across the road between me and a filling station cum grocery cum general dealer. "Blazes" I thought "A robbery getaway and me without even a Browning."

The driver leaped out and running to the far side of the road grabbed a bale of hay; meantime his companion ran to the petrol pump and unhooked the hose. The driver threw the bale beside the pump and as his pal spewed the precious fuel all over it he took a box of matches from his pocket. "Wrong first guess" I thought "It is not a getaway it is a vengeance act over a fuel refusal" and I tried to estimate the safety factor between a blazing pump and my nearly new Toyota.

While I was working that one out without range tables the driver lifted the now saturated bale of hay and threw it into the middle of the road and with what I thought was an All-Army winning flick landed a burning match right dead centre. While smoke and flame gathered momentum in their skyward climb, the passenger appeared from the shop with two sweeping brushes, one of which he handed to the driver, and they took up position on either side of the road just as a convoy of cars with horns blowing swept into view and skidded to a halt just short of the blazing road-block.

Our two heroes rushed to either side of the lead car, which I now noticed was decked with white ribbon, and proceeded to beat a tattoo on it with their brushes. "They are mad," I thought, "Quite, quite mad." (even in a stressful situation a classical education will show through) but I felt pity for the occupants of the car. Curiosity overcame discretion and I moved closer to see that the occupants were a bridal couple, and far from being upset they were grinning broadly and enjoying what seemingly was a huge joke.

Next thing, the groom got out of the car and taking some coins from his pocket give a few to each of the car beating arsonists. Those now withdrew and having pushed the blazing bale to the side of the road handed the brushes to the shop-keeper, who was also grinning away, got into their car, straightened it out and, lead the whole horn blowing, grinning, shouting, convoy on its way. "Mad," I thought, "The Celts are all mad," but before I returned to my car I glanced at the petrol pump to see wrapped around it a large sheet of canvas bearing the stencilled message in big black letters "SORRY, NO PETROL."

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FINAL . . THREE GREENS

Flt. Sgt. Stephen Curran

WEDNESDAY the 26th May 1976 was a day which could have escaped with 364 others as being ordinary but for a particular incident which occurred at about 10.25 that morning. Apart from a tiny eight line mention on the back page of a Sunday National newspaper, this was never publicised. A Helicopter crash-landed. An Air Corps Alouette 111 Helicopter (H195 - c/no. 1151) on a test flight, smashed against the ground from 200 feet and it had a forward speed of about 100 kts. The fact that there was so much forward speed instead of a vertical plummet probably was a major deciding factor in the resultant of forces which favoured the lives of those who were helpless to halt the deadly descent.

On initial impact, the tail rotor blades shed themselves much like a planing machine causes a knot to disintegrate in a piece of timber. The steel tail drive now having no resistance or harnessing power for its phenomenal twisting moment, rent itself in two like a piece of thread and flailed wildly, ripping into the flimsy panels as a red hot knife through butter. The undercarriage was still intact as the downed aircraft careered headlong across the soft ground and headed diagonally for the edge of the concrete runway. The nosewheel mounted the runway but the right hand mainwheel with so much more weight on it, struck the 6" high path-like edge and was torn from its welded steel cluster. The left hand wheel now had more impetus imparted to it as a result of the instant stopping of the right hand side and it mounted the runway. The aircraft careered in a wide right hand arc across the runway, grinding metal as flat as the concrete on which it left its mark as the pilot fought to keep the Main Rotor Blades from striking the ground. The stricken machine slewed into the grass on the far side of the runway with the Main Rotor still fully engaged. The blades were no more than two or three inches from the ground. They were actually clipping the grass at this point and if they had struck the ground, it would certainly have been a catastrophe. The Helicopter would be sure to cartwheel. However the pilot's sustained efforts to save his craft paid off.

The tortured machine came to rest nearly 350 yards after it had impacted. The engine was shut down and the blades - still a major hazard - were brought to a halt. They did strike the ground but only in the final three or four turns and even then, the force still in them, caused them to buckle and become distorted beyond repair. The four men, alive and undamaged, had at least one thing in common - they had just sat together in the palm of His hand. When the initial shock and concern, and later - excitement (as the story spread that everyone on board had escaped injury) died down, the broken flying machine was retrieved from its alien landing site and placed in No. 2 hangar to await investigation of the incident.

A Court of Inquiry was convened in June of that year and at its conclusion in October the findings were submitted to the Authorities. A period of seeming disinterest followed. This illusion was created by the apparent abandonment of the 'rag-doll' Helicopter in a dusty corner, but unknown to most of the "comment passers" (whose sage assumptions have been known to reach Gospel status) the many and varied channels of the system were being exercised in no uncertain terms in an effort to have the aircraft rebuilt and not scrapped. That the collective thoughts of the people concerned on this highly complex business of rebuilding a helicopter should be collected and pieced together and presented literally in such a way as to allow the Dept. to see that there was no other alternative but to rebuild was indeed a work of major proportions which should not go unmentioned.

In July 1977, the Green Light was given for recommissioning the aircraft for service. The news was well received by everyone. If that were to be called phase one, phase two now began.

A representative from the mother factory in France was called in to assess the possibility of whether the job of putting the pieces together again should be done here? Lengthy technical discussions were held, largely concerning such matters as availability of spares, continuity of expert working crews, quality and standards of work, test equipment, special tools, test procedures and findings etc. etc. An unspoken tribute was paid to the servicing standards of Air Corps technicians when yet again, another Green Light was given for reconstruction of H195 to be undertaken in Servicing Squadron, Tech. Wing Hangar, Baldonnel. This now presented a further problem. For the Helicopter to be rebuilt, the entire exercise would involve certification. This was an internal matter for the Air Corps.

An aircraft such as this is certified for flight subject to the conditions and procedures laid down in the Maintenance Manual. This Manual which is in fact several separate volumes, tells you such things as: what kind of oil to use, how much of it to use and where to use it. It gives detailed procedures for removing and replacing Tail Boom, Rotor Blades, Transmissions, Fuel Tank etc. etc. It tells you capacities of systems, pressures, tensions, temperatures, dimensions and colours. It even tells you how to mix adhesives and how to polish perspex, but there is one thing it doesn't tell you, and that is how to build a Helicopter.

This was a problem which was eventually resolved by using the detailed recommendations of the Aerospatiale Inspector and combining them with the established procedures available from the Maintenance Manuals and other technical documentation. July 1978 saw the rostered crew beginning its great work. This was the point at which the Helicopter was taken asunder completely piece by piece and examined in fine detail before being laid out in readiness for the reconstruction itself. The reconstruction began and proceeded slowly as this hyper-complicated jig-saw puzzle was carefully pieced together. The crew in Servicing Squadron was further complemented by experts from Helicopter Squadron who had a great deal of experience in this kind of work and as a result, greatly accelerated the rebuild and had it substantially completed by November 1978. There was a delay in Instrument supplies at this stage, so the final completion was not realised until the 6th of February 1979.

Colonel J. B. O'Connor, Director of Military Aviation, was the real champion of the cause because of his consistency in maintaining pressure to have the aircraft rebuilt, and it was he who gave the third and final green Light to start rebuilding.

Fair dues must also be accorded the crew who worked so diligently for so long. Sgt. Willie Byrne with Airmen Joe and Anthony Cronin, all from Helicopter Squadron, were the main building force. Preparatory groundwork was initiated by Sgt. Benny Roycroft and Cpl. Des McDonagh, both from Servicing Squadron. That this article is written is to be accredited to the promptings of Air Corps HQrs. and I think it fair comment to say that if it was not written, then no one would know or could appreciate the enormous amount of work and dedication that went into putting this Helicopter back together again.

Signalman, Gerry Gallagher, Comdt. and Mrs. Mick Fallon, winner of All Army Golf & Sgt. Eamon Minagh. (Photo: P. Devaney, Athlone)

OFFICERS PROMOTIONS - AUGUST

Name	To	From	To
O'Connell, Timothy F.	Lt. Col.	Asst. Comd. QM 'Q' Staff HQ W. Comd.	Comd. QM 'Q' Staff HQ W. Comd.
Cullen, Charles J.	Lt. Col.	SO (Comdt.) Trg. Sec. CSs Br. AHQ Staff	O/C Sub. Sec. Trg. Sec. CSs Br.
McEvoy, Richard N.	Comdt.	Gen. List MP Corps	OC 4 Fd. S & T Coy.
Murray, James J.	Comdt.	QM 'Q' Sec. Adm. Bty. HQ Dep. Arty.	Dep. Arty.
Whelan, John P.	Comdt.	2 i/c & Camp Adjt. & Offr. i/c UNIFIL Canteen 2 HQ Coy.	Retains
Ahern, Joseph P.	Comdt.	Adm. Offr. HQ Dep. Ord.	Stores Offr. Gp 2 Stores Dep. Ord.

OFFICERS PROMOTIONS - SEPTEMBER

Doheny, William	Col.	OC 20 Inf. Bn.	Dir. of Reserve Forces
Hartigan, Thomas J. D.	Col.	OC 12 Inf. Bn.	OC W. Comd. FCA
O'Connor, Francis	Col.	Comd. EO HQ W. Comd.	OC E Comd. Inf. Force
O'Farrell, Brendan A.	Lt. Col.	Ops. Staff HQ 4 Bde.	HQ W. Comd.
Dawson, Leo M.	Lt. Col.	Instr. Mil. Col.	Chief Instr. C & S Sch. Mil. Col.
Grennan, Patrick	Lt. Col.	EO G T Depot C. Comd.	OC 30 Inf. Bn.
McCorley, Roger E.	Lt. Col.	Sqn. Comd. 4 Mtr. Sqn.	OC Depot Cav.
Ryan, John A.	Lt. Col.	OC 20 Inf. Bn.	EO E Comd. Inf. Force
Brophy, Ambrose C.	Lt. Col.	Asst. Comdt. Adjt. 'A' Staff HQ C Comd.	OC & APM
Kelly, Gerald M.	Lt. Col.	Ops. Staff, HQ 1 Bde	OIC Sub. Sec. Trg. Sec. AHQ
Gallagher, Humphrey R.	Lt. Col.	HQ Depot Ord.	Sch. Comdt. Ord. Sch. Depot Ord.
Gahan, John J.	Comdt.	OC & Bde. Engr. Offr. Coy. HQ 3 Fd. Engr. Coy.	OC & Bde. Engr. Offr. Coy HQ 1 Fd. Engr. Coy.
Campbell, Joseph A.	A/Comdt.	SO (Capt.) Sub Sec. QMG's Br. AHQ Staff	QM (Comdt.) 'Q' Staff HQ E Comd. Inf. Force

Continued on Page 325

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Continued from Page 323

Martin, Aiden M.	A/Comdt.	PSO/QMG (Capt.) Office of QMG, QMG's Br. AHQ Staff	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ HQ Coy. 5 Inf. Bn.
O'Donovan, Anthony J.	A/Comdt.	SO (Capt.) Enl. Pers. Sec. AG's Br. AHQ Staff	2 i/c (Comdt.) Coy. HQ 1 Grn. MP Coy.
O'Sullivan, Patrick B.	A/Comdt.	SO (Capt.) 'A' Adm. Sec. AG's Br. AHQ Staff	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ 'A' Coy. 5 Inf. Bn.
Hayes, Declan C.	A/Comdt.	Pl. Comd. (Capt.) MT Pl. 3 Grn. Coy. S & T	SO Adm. (Comdt.) Reserve Forces Sec. CS's Br. AHQ Staff
O'Connor, Brian J.	A/Comdt.	Adjt. & Bty. Comd. (Capt.) Adm. Bty. Depot Arty.	SO (Comdt.) Ops. Trg. Reserve Forces Sec. CS's Br. AHQ Staff
O'Dubhghaill, Colm. M.	A/Comdt.	Adm. Offr. (Capt.) Bn. HQ 22 Inf. Bn. (FCA)	SO (Comdt.) Ops. Trg. Reserve Forces Sec. CS's Br. AHQ Staff
Halligan, Thomas F.	A/Comdt.	2 i/c (Capt.) Coy. HQ 2 Grn. MP Coy.	OC (Comdt.) Coy. HQ 6 Fd. MP Coy. (FCA)
Betson, David E.	A/Comdt.	Adjt. & Bty. Comd. (Capt.) 'A' Sec. HQ Bty. 2 Fd. Arty. Regt.	Adjt. (Comdt.) HQ E Comd. Inf. Force
Staunton, Thomas P.	A/Comdt.	Adjt. (Capt.) Bn. HQ 27 Inf. Bn.	Int. Offr. (Comdt.) HQ E Comd. Inf. Force
Carolan, John	A/Comdt.	Wpns. Pl Comd. & 2 i/c (Capt.) 'B' Coy. 27 Inf. Bn.	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ 'B' Coy. 27 Inf. Bn.
Hayes, Michael P.	A/Comdt.	Adm. Offr. (Capt.) Bn. HQ 13 Inf. Bn. (FCA)	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ Spt. Coy. 27 Inf. Bn.
McCann, Brendan P.	A/Comdt.	SO (Capt.) Sqn. HQ 11 Mot. Sqn.	OIC (Comdt.) Ops. Staff HQ 2 Bde.
O'Connor, Nicholas S.	A/Comdt.	SO (Capt.) Regt. HQ 6 Fd. Arty. Regt. (FCA)	SO (Comdt.) D. Arty.
Nestor, Michael A.	A/Comdt.	Instr. (Capt.) Sch. of Adm. GT Depot C Comd.	Stores Offr. (Comdt.) Gp 3 Stores Sec. Depot Ord.
Fleming, Terence F.	A/Comdt.	Ops. Offr. (Capt.) Bn. HQ 4 Inf. Bn.	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ 'A' Coy. 12 Inf. Bn.
Swords, Frederick J.	A/Comdt.	Adjt. (Capt.) Bn HQ 12 Inf. Bn.	OIC (Comdt.) 'Q' Staff HQ S Comd. (FCA)
Cregan, Michael J.	A/Comdt.	Inf. Offr. (Capt.) Bn. HQ 12 Inf. Bn.	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ HQ Coy. 6 Inf. Bn.
Kavanagh, Michael P.	A/Comdt.	Instr. (Capt.) NCO Sch. GT Depot C Comd.	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ 'B' Coy. 6 Inf. Bn.
Nash, Patrick J.	A/Comdt.	Adm. Offr. (Capt.) 14 Inf. Bn. (FCA)	Transferred from Cav. Corps to Inf. Corps and Posted to Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ, HQ Coy. 29 Inf. Bn.
Meenan, John P.	A/Comdt.	Adjt. & Coy. Comd. (Capt.) 'A' Pl Adm. Coy. GT Depot C. Comd.	Coy Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ 'A' Coy. 28 inf. Bn.
Crowe, John T.	A/Comdt.	Wpns. Pl Comd. & 2 i/c (Capt.) 'B' Coy. 28 Inf. Bn.	Bde. 10 (Comdt.) Int. Staff HQ 4 Bde.
McNamara, Gerard	A/Comdt.	OC (Capt.) Coy. HQ 4 Fd. MP Coy. (FCA)	OC (Comdt.) Coy. HQ. 4 Fd. MP Coy. (FCA)
McGrath, Michael	A/Comdt.	Air Tfc. Ctl. Offr. (Capt.) HQ Air Corps. Baldonnel	OC Sector & Chief Contr. (Comdt.) Sector HQ Obs. Corps.
McNamara, James	A/Comdt.	Instr. (Capt.) NCO Sch. GT Depot C. Comd.	Coy..Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ HQ Coy. 29 Inf. Bn.
O'Connor, Timothy	A/Comdt.	Oc (Capt.) 2 Fd. Bty. (FCA) Cadre 1 Fd. Arty. Regt.	OC (Comdt.) Army sch. of Catering
Parsons, Denis J.	A/Comdt.	SO (Capt.) HQ Depot MP Corps.	Sch Comdt. & 2 i/c Depot (Comdt.) MP Sch. Depot MP Corps.
Daly, Edward A.	A/Comdt.	QM (Capt.) Bn. HQ 30 Inf. Bn.	OIC (Comdt.) 'A' & 'Q' Staff HQ C Comd. (FCA)
Horgan, Edward J.	A/Comdt.	2 i/c & Deputy Governor (Capt.) HQ Mil. Detn. Bks. C Camp	OIC (Comdt.) Int. Staff HQ C Comd. (FCA)
O'Driscoll, Michael J.	A/Comdt.	Trg. Offr. (Capt.) 'B' Coy. 23 Inf. Bn. (FCA)	Asst. Comd. QM (Comdt.) 'Q' Staff HQ S Comd.
O'Mordha, Diarmuid A.	A/Comdt.	Adjt. (Capt.) Bn HQ 5 Inf. Bn.	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ Spt. Coy. 5 Inf. Bn.
Riordan, Patrick J.	A/Comdt.	Adjt. & Coy. Comd. (Capt.) Adm. Coy. Depot S & T Corps.	SO (Comdt.) Trg. Sec. CS's Br. AHQ Staff
O'Brien, Patrick N.	A/Comdt.	SO (Capt.) Canteen Sec. QMG's Br. AHQ Staff	Retains present appt.
O'Keeffe, Donagh E.	A/Comdt.	Ops. Offr. (Capt.) Bn. HQ 3 Inf. Bn.	Coy. Comd. (Comdt.) Coy. HQ Spt. Coy. 29 Inf. Bn.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

29 Victoria Road,
Clontarf.

Editor,
An Cosantoir.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your question on page 161 June '79 issue of *An Cosantoir* the artist in question was a very remarkable priest, Father Tom Grogan.

A native of Cloghan, Offaly, where his father succeeded Tom MacDonagh's father as N.T. (as mine did later in Cloughjordan) he served as a curate in Saggart, living in Rathcoole where he became very friendly with the troops in Baldonnel. He later served in Maynooth, Fairview, Ballybrack and as P.P. in Ashford, Co. Wicklow where he died. During 'The Emergency' he spent a fortnight's holiday with the troops of the 1st Division, all the time in a bivouac tent and on Army rations and mostly in camps around Youghal. Serving members of the 21st Bn. of those days are bound to remember this episode, totally irregular from an educated as well as an army administration point of view, was in my view fully justified by the fact that he was a great morale booster. He loved the camp life and the company of the troops, who appreciated his obvious enthusiasm for their calling.

He was a great talker, a great humorist, an accomplished reciter of poems by Service and Kipling especially, an enthusiastic singer (if not accomplished of songs of which his favourites were those made known by Jimmy O'Dea.

But above all else he shone as an artist and especially as a cartoonist. Paintings of his such, as a good one in oils of Joe MacGrath are numerous. His most prolific work by far is a great volume of cartoons which he did for *Dublin Opinion.*

As to the cartoon itself it is unmistakeable Grogan style and on a topic often dealt with by him in '*Dublin Opinion*'. It was he that christened 1925 as 'the year that the army was marrying'.

The cartoon you reproduced was around in 1925 and I can't explain belated appearance in print. It may be that it was not thought suitable in '25 but was accepted in '26 because, as far as I can recollect, it was from then on becoming increasingly difficult to get cartoons. Capt. Thompson, the mainstay, was on a few times and Fr. Tom Grogan was increasingly sported in Dublin Opinion, and at the same time under a cloud with his superior who thought some of his activities and cartoons to be unbecoming a priest.

With kind regards.

Yours,
M. J. Costello, Lt. Gen. (Retd.)

St. Joseph's Retreat,
Cloonmahon,
Colloney, Co. Sligo.

Editor,
An Cosantoir.

Dear Sir,

I enjoyed reading the history of the 6th Infantry Battalion by Lieut. Brian O'Driscoll which appeared in the March issue, much delayed due to postal difficulties.

In reference to the 1942 manoeuvres Brian O'Driscoll states, "anyone who has joined the Army since 1942 is surely entitled to feel that he has heard all accounts". I expect that is true.

However, if my memory serves me correctly it was the 20th Battalion that marched out of Mullingar for the Cork manoeuvres in 1942, the 6th taking over Columb Bks. only after the Phoenix Park Camp, and the 20th then going to Athlone.

Would anyone else remember?

Congratulations and thanks to Lieut. O'Driscoll.

Basil Coleman, C.P.

34 Deanstown Road,
Finglas West,
Dublin.

The Editor,
An Cosantoir.

Dear Sir,

Whilst browsing through my collection of back numbers of *An Cosantoir* recently, I re-read an article in your December 1973 issue by, Mr. Thomas Nolan, entitled, "Modelling the Air Corps".

Being a keen if not accomplished modeller myself, I found this article most interesting. The adjoining table containing, colour schemes, national and serial markings, furnished me with information which I had long sought.

Would it be possible in some future issues, to publish photographs of actual aircraft as in the past I have found that these are most helpful from the point of view of authenticity.

Finally with regard to the old underwing tricolour markings, was the green nearer the wingtips or fuselage?

Sincerely,
D. C. Douglas.

Portsmouth,
England.

The Editor,
An Cosantoir.

A Chara,

Welcome Back!

It was a rare pleasure to receive six issues of the Journal within the space of two weeks. This was of course entirely due to the postal strike and if the cheerful staffs did not achieve their full settlement one can only compare them with Robert the Bruce during his enforced exile on Rathlin Island.

It is over two years since my friend the Editor was last kind enough to afford me space in 'An Cosantoir'. So perhaps he will favour me with a few comments now? There is much to say of moment, an embarrassment de richesse - so here goes.

1 Co-operative Housing Building (April issue)

This eminently sensible proposal was expounded in some detail by the NABC. In short it aims to encourage soldiers (there is no mention of the Air Corps or Naval Service) to save £1,000.00 after which he can become a member of a savings group. He can then join a Co-operative Housing Society (pardon - I nearly said Collective). After the voluminous committee work, and if he is a hardy survivor, he may like to possess one of the 600 houses completed in 1976. This will not get him very far as the minimum price of one is about £11,000.00 at present.

But alas cold water was poured on it in the June issue. A Corporation man ruled ". . . undeveloped land is not made available to co-op groups who generally would not have the resources or expertise for such major development . . ." So, what will Sergeant Williams do next?

2 Chips with Everything (March issue)

A priest says ". . . the advent of the micro-electronic revolution in the shape of the minute silicon 'chip' will make automation possible on a scale undreamed of before". We have to forget about Huxley's 'Brave New World' and Wells' 'Shape of things to come' in the same way as our fathers and grandfathers marvelled at the horseless carriage, the heavier-than-air machine and Edison Bell. Dull and repetitive work will gradually disappear; of 18 million secretaries and typists in Europe, two thirds will be out of a job by the year 2000. First, there will be the four day week, then three, and next the two. Finally in 15-20 years we could be getting paid not to work at all! The babies now in prams and cots are the micro-systems electronics/analysts of AD 2000 plus. As the Rev. Father wrote, "there will be a new philosophy (or revolution) towards jobs". Bishops are presently calling all the people to God. They talk of marriage, children, parish committees. But with respect they overlook one thing. We are all already on a march, a route march which will one day end in death. Though it begs a might question, one might ask - where to? We should never forget NATO. Not one square inch of soil has been yielded to a Marxist State since its inception in 1948.

Then there are the advocates of a plutonion economy and the prophets of nuclear power, ranged against the starry-eyed environmentalists and the anti-ecologists. All these cases are just in themselves but where is the will to live and serve God in all this?

3 Communications Course - The interview (June issue)

When I took this course back in 1960 we couldn't decide whether it was 'Personnel', 'Industrial Relations' or 'PR'. We finally decided for the last and blamed a poor man called Ivy Lee, the father of PR, who was given the seemingly impossible task of doing something to the unacceptable face of John D. Rockefeller. He finally came up with the phrase 'If you want to be thought of as good people, you **must** be good people'. From that one succinct sentence, millions of words and books, conferring, travelling and media time have ringed the world. (I learned what it meant from Michael Colley and Gladys McNavin of the ESB). If you don't believe this ask Jack Millar of Aer Lingus or Dick Hinchy of Merrion Buildings.

I sympathise with Comdt. O'Farrell at having his thunder stolen by that Netherlands Colonel but the subject is as long as a piece of string and was superbly dealt with by Hubert Butler that genius of the Butler Society. I happen to own a little book published in the 1790's which will infuriate everyone except a Colonel and a Major. The Colonel flatters me but I must confess I have a book to my name "Irish Regiments in the First World War" (Mercier Press) which deals with the holocaust of that war. We must never forget that Ireland sent half a million to that war; 50,000 of them fell in battle. All were volunteers.

4 Folklore (April issue)

But talking of folklore, sure, wouldn't the gallant Netherlands Colonel himself know there is a Folklore Commission on St. Stephen's Green presided over by Captain Kevin Danaher, long a friend of mine and now President of the Military History Society of Ireland.

The truth of the matter is that folklore is but one aspect of a matrix of questions facing soldiers. There are other facets, tradition, glory, esprit de corps, history (or Izzet if you're a Muslim). There are fine countries that take them proudly, (France and the US, though the British tend to play it down) and there are simple unsophisticated races like the Polynesians, the cargo cult people, who get along without knowing one word of it. At one time the British used to allot nicknames to their horsed cavalry. There were the Queen's Bays and the Scots' Grays and both of these were fine until a certain distillery PR man came along and said you could take a White Horse anywhere. Pre-mechanization days the 7th Dragoon Guards were nicknamed 'the Black Horse' but despite some dilletante fieldwork I am unable to arouse any interest with Lloyds Bank.

Ireland and Spain both share long Catholic histories (leaving aside periodic puritanicalism, pogroms and purges). Both have had their ups - a glorious hagiography of saints - and downs - both have to have an Irish or a Spanish Pope. The Armada was thought to be invincible, but we all know what happened to that (especially on the West Coast of Ireland). Fifty years later, in the France of the Thirty Years War, Spain lost at Rocroi and Ireland won at Benburb. Few such dazzling military careers were to end so disastrously for two proud nations. Both were what Professor Moody calls 'turning points in Irish history'; literally and metaphorically new chapters begin and so will go on. We are but the children of the dead.

So, for all our gift of tongues we are left with a welter of words - desperately sanguine, full of received notions (prejudices to you and me), in which we regard the future with a mixture of horror and hope. But be not afraid; you know what to say to the Man who stood at the Gate of the Year. Despite what Henry Ford I said, History is not bunk. It is about peoples, men and women you and me, and thank heaven it is so.

Mise le meas,
Henry Harris, Knight of Malta,
Mil. Hist. Soc. of Ireland,
PR Inst. of Ireland.

OBITUARY

Comdt. T. O'Meara

The death took place recently of Ex-Comdt. Tommy O'Meara, who for almost 25 years was O/C Tullamore Bn., FCA (Subsequently "C" Coy. 16th Bn.). Tommy who served from June 1940 to Å969 served first as L.D.F. Group leader in Clara, and after he was commissioned in 1946 at O/C Tullamore Bn. FCA. With the help of newly commissioned Lieuts. Dignam, McCann, Grennan, O'Connor, Hanley and O'Reilly he set about the job of organising the Bn., with such effect that by the end of 1947 the strength of the unit numbered almost one thousand.

When the Platoon and Shooting competitions were organised, Tommy was always to the forefront and it was through his dedicated coaching and encouragement that Tullamore became the most successful FCA unit in the country. In the Command Platoon competitions, of the ten that were held they won six and in the remainder were never further away than fourth place.

In the All Army FCA Shooting competition, Tullamore won nine in a row (and also won the 1979 competition) in addition to which five of the team members won the individual title and two were runners up. This success was not achieved by accident for it was quite normal for Comdt. O'Meara to attend approx. thirty Fd. days a year, at least two training sessions a week and in all his years as O/C had never been known to miss the monthly staff meeting over which he presided with great authority.

Down through the years Tommy served with many area officers including Comdt. Wedick, Beglin, Dolan, Banahan, O'Riordan, Ryan and last but by no means least Lt. Col. J. P. Kelly (his fellow country man) who at 82 years of age was present at the funeral.

Tommy was laid to rest in the Monastery cemetery in his native Clara and I stood with his many comrades both serving and retired, too numerous to mention, remembering, as the Last Post was sounded, how much we owe this great man, and for me, to have known and served under him was truly a great honour.

To his bereaved Wife and Family we extend our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

P. W.

Editor,
An Cosantoir.

Cathal Brugha Bks.,
Dublin.

Sir,

"The Mad Escape" G. T. Ryle Dwyer

How can such statements in the above (August issue) be allowed as "The country was virtually defenceless . . ." This is a repeat of Mr. Ryle Dwyer's similar denigrations of the Defence Forces in his book on Irish Neutrality where he scoffs at the Emergency Army and gives erroneous figures. Can all my emergency comrades (not the short pants recollectors) agree so that we didn't amount to much more than a ha'p'orth. After all, Monty said he would NOT like to try to take Cork with only one division.

Yours,
Comdt. P. D. O'Donnell

Seamus Kelly Annual Award

A Committee has been formed, of which the Chief of Staff is a member, to innaugurate an award in memory of the late Captain Seamus Kelly. Capt. Kelly was editor of **An Cosantoir** *during the War, and in 1946 he joined the Irish Times as Drama Critic. Three years later he took over the* **Irishman's Diary,** *a position which he held until his death.*

The Award will be for journalists under 25 years of age working on an Irish newspaper. The themes on which they may submit articles will include military affairs and the other subjects in which Capt. Kelly was interested. Subscriptions for the fund should be sent to The Manager, A.I.B., Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1 or any branch of that bank.

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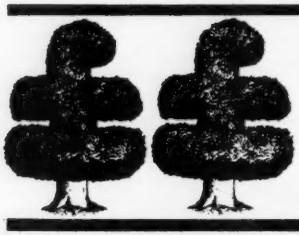

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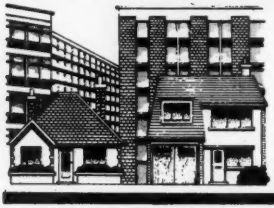
(June 1971-May 1979) +143.5%



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(February 1975-May 1979) +80.3%

Gilt Edge Fund

(May 1978-May 1979) +15.0%

(December 1976-May 1979) +53.2%

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Published by the Manager, An Cosantoir, Army Headquarters, Parkgate, Dublin and printed by Turner's Printing Co. Ltd., Longford.